

ORIGIN/ACTION

RM/R REP AF

ARA EUR FE

NEA CU INR

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L FBO AID

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INT LAB TAR

TR XMB AIR

ARMY CIA NAVY

OSD USIA NSA

MRC  
6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## AIRGRAM

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-544

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO: USCINCSO FOR POLAD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN SALVADOR,  
TEGUCIGALPA, DOD

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT: Internal Security

REF :

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY

DATE: 17 Aug 68

RDS or XDS EXT. DATE

TS AUTH. August 10-18 1968

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF  
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS  
AUG 21 1968

1. Some political violence occurred during the period, but few deaths seem to have resulted. Most noteworthy was the detonation of a concussion-type bomb in a washroom at La Aurora Airport. Timed to explode just as OAS Secretary General Galo Plaza and his party were getting ready to board their onward flight, the bomb caused only minor damage and minor injuries to two airport employees. The official party just escaped injury by a few minutes however, since their path to the flight took them past the blast area. No arrests have been made.

2. In another bombing, one of two devices left alongside a tank containing several hundred thousand gallons of gasoline exploded. Police later arrested an unidentified Costa Rican when he reported the theft of a pickup truck left in his care. The truck, reportedly used in the bombing, had crashed into a wall at 4 A.M. on the morning after the attack and four armed men were said to have leapt out. Security forces claimed that the suspect had been identified as one of them. On August 10, employees of a clothing store in Zone 9 quickly doused a fire started in an upstairs room by an incendiary bomb. The culprits escaped.

3. Several attacks on security forces were recorded. The National Police reported that an unidentified band of youths had fired machine guns at a police patrol in Zacapa. The Comisionado Militar of Chiquimula was allegedly attacked and wounded by a criminal band. Police said they apprehended one of the group and did not ascribe the attack to political motivation.

4. Long-time Liberationist Felipa Cándida Morales disappeared on

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☒ In ☐ OutFORM  
4-22 DS-323

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Guatemala A- 544

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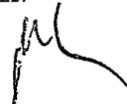
August 10. Relatives claim that three machine gun-armed men told her she had to "arrange some things at the police station" and took her off in a red jeep. The police deny holding her. Sometime ago she had been detained for a month by security forces for "security reasons."

5. In Los Amates, Izabal, the candidate of the government Revolutionary Party claimed to have been kidnapped and released with a warning not to continue his mayoralty campaign. In spite of the threat, he announced that he would continue, and official results show that the PR won in Los Amates.

6. The Embassy is reporting separately on the PR call for the formation of a National Front Against "la Violencia." The PR has suggested that through a dialogue with all sectors of the society, the people could develop a nationwide plan to control the violencia. The PR said that it would actively participate, but that it would not table a program.

7. COMMENT: Considering that municipal elections were held throughout the country during the period, which stretched security forces thin, the level of violence was surprisingly low.

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